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For creating a Better Society

~ an initiative by IIMC and YB*

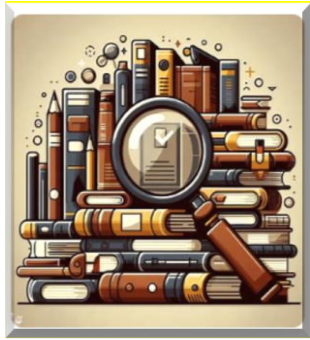
Read ~ to inspire

12 April 2024

"Sahara Special" by Esme Raji Codell is a middle-grade novel that follows the story of Sahara Jones, a sixth-grade student who feels like she doesn't fit in at school. Sahara struggles with reading and writing, and she is placed in a special education class due to her difficulties. Feeling misunderstood and isolated, Sahara retreats into her own world, where she finds solace in her imagination and her love for poetry.

As Sahara navigates the challenges of middle school, she forms unlikely friendships with her classmates and discovers her own unique voice through poetry. With the help of her caring teacher, Ms. Graham, Sahara begins to gain confidence in herself and her abilities. Through a series of journal entries and poetry assignments, Sahara explores her feelings of frustration, insecurity, and longing for acceptance.

Throughout the novel, Sahara grapples with issues of identity, self-esteem, and the power of words to express emotions and connect people. As she learns to embrace her differences and speak her truth, Sahara discovers that she is capable of achieving more than she ever imagined.



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One of the key takeaways of "Sahara Special" is the importance of understanding and supporting students with learning differences. The novel emphasizes the need for educators to recognize the individual strengths and talents of each student and to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment where all students can thrive.

Overall, "Sahara Special" is a heartfelt and empowering story about the journey of self-discovery and the transformative power of friendship, creativity, and acceptance. It celebrates the resilience and courage of young people as they navigate the ups and downs of growing up and finding their place in the world.